

ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE: CENTRE COUNTY'S CHILDREN NEED YOU!

Call Centre County Children & Youth Services
to express an interest in becoming a FOSTER
PARENT.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I APPLY?

A Foster Home Recruiter will contact you by
phone and arrange to meet with you and your
family in your home to explain foster care at
length and go over the application process.
If you decide to pursue becoming a Foster
Parent, you will participate in a home
evaluation and study. The Foster Home
Recruiter will help you complete the evaluation
and study.

The Foster Home Recruiter will introduce you
to staff at Centre County Children & Youth
Services, who will provide pre-service training
to prepare you for taking foster children into
your home.



CHILDREN & YOUTH SERVICES
Centre County Children Need Centre County Homes

SERVICE OF CENTRE COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
STEVEN G. DERSHEM, Chair

CHRIS EXARCHOS
MICHAEL PIPE

*Centre County Children
Need Centre County Homes*



Need Centre County Homes

**BECOME A FOSTER
PARENT**

Centre County
Children and Youth Services

420 Holmes St. 2nd Floor
Willowbank Building
Bellefonte, PA 16823
(814) 355-6755



WHAT IS FOSTER CARE?

Foster care is a service which provides life experience in an approved household for children who temporarily cannot remain in their own home and whose needs can be best met in a foster family setting.

The basic purposes of foster care are:

- *To provide a safe, nurturing environment which promotes the child's maximum growth and development.
- *To work toward the achievement of a permanency goal for the child.



WHO NEEDS FOSTER CARE?

Children and youth needing foster care placements come from a variety of social and economic backgrounds; from every race, religion, and nationality; and every age from birth to young adulthood.

Children who need foster care may have experienced: abuse, neglect, parent-child conflict, truancy, emotional problems.



WHAT QUALITIES DO FOSTER PARENTS HAVE?

FOSTER PARENTS are people like you. People who are genuinely concerned about the welfare of children and families in Centre County.

FOSTER PARENTS represent different ages, races, and income levels. They may be either married or single. They may have biological children and/or adopted children living at home or have raised their own children to adulthood. There are FOSTER PARENTS who go to your church, work with you at your place of employment, or live in your neighborhood.



WHAT IS INVOLVED IN FOSTER CARE?

FOSTER PARENTS provide the daily basics: food, clothing, shelter, and love and guidance that every child needs.

FOSTER PARENTS work in partnership with the agency and other support services to help children and families.



IS ALL FOSTER CARE THE SAME?

There are several types of foster care:

Regular Foster Care

FOSTER PARENTS provide a home for a child for as long as it is necessary. The placement lasts anywhere from two weeks to several years.

Emergency Foster Care

FOSTER PARENTS are available 24 hours a day to receive children into their home. The length of time of a child's placement can vary anywhere from one day to two weeks.

Respite Foster Care

Respite foster care is used to provide short term relief to parents who need a break. The placement is typically planned in advance and involves one to two weekends per month. Respite care is also used to provide relief care for foster parents to give them a break from a youth with challenging behaviors.

FOSTER PARENTS can choose to provide any of the above types of foster care. You will receive financial reimbursement for room, board and clothing. Medical expenses are covered by the Pennsylvania Access Plus Program.

